

# **Montana Oil Pipeline Safety Review Council**

## **November 15, 2011, 9:00 – Noon**

### **Draft Meeting Minutes**

#### **Council Members Present:**

**Richard Oppen - DEQ, Mary Sexton – DNRC, Tim Reardon – MDOT.**

#### **Staff:**

**Bonnie Lovelace - DEQ.**

#### **I. Welcome by Chairman, Richard Oppen**

Chairman Oppen opened the meeting with introductions of Council members and the public attendees. General comments were made regarding the agenda and the duties of the council.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes from August 3, 2011 meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously without edits.

#### **III. Work Status update**

- A. Nat Carter, Department of Environmental Quality, demonstrated the Geographic Information System status regarding mapping elements available from the Department and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) data. The pipeline information is mapped, locations of river crossings of all stream sizes are identified and inspection information is entered as it becomes available. The pipeline attributes (such as ownership, commodity, construction characteristics) are available via dropdown menu within the system.
- B. Chris Hoidal with the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), presented information regarding the series of inspections conducted over the previous 4 months on the largest river pipeline crossings in Montana. PHMSA also inspected many smaller crossings in the vicinity of the large ones. The inspections identified several “at-risk” river crossing sites, and Hoidal discussed the plans being developed to correct the problem crossings. Hoidal’s Powerpoint presentation summarizing PHMSA’s inspections is available on the DEQ website. The discussion included an explanation of abandonment procedures (cleaning of lines and filling with nitrogen), management of “idle” pipelines that may ultimately be brought back into service, the sharing of pictures of “at risk” sites, the heightened awareness that is the result of the Silvertip line oil spill, the high level of responsiveness by

industry in assessing their lines and engaging in rapid repairs, and the need to conduct repairs soon so that lines are protected from rupture before the next spring runoff. A number of lines need work to provide clear lines of sight inspection for the right of way. PHMSA is prepared to proceed with necessary enforcement actions if “at-risk” line exposures are not mitigated in a timely fashion. Some discussion ensued regarding how PHMSA addresses the type of mitigation needed, the unique analysis needed for each individual situation, and the determination of the corrective action. There was also a discussion of the definition of “Navigable Rivers,” that PHMSA uses to determine where it conducts inspections.

#### IV. Technical Information Sharing

The following people were given the opportunity to present information on technical tools available to address monitoring and management of pipeline safety. Oppen pointed out that neither the Council, the State of Montana, nor the Federal Government endorse these technologies. Rather the Council agreed to provide the forum for people to present these technologies to the public. Their Powerpoint presentations are available on the DEQ website:

- A. TerraEchos and UM Flathead Lake Biological Station partner, Alex Philp: Advanced Sensor Systems: Helping Monitor Critical Infrastructure. Mr. Philp presented information on the fiber optic monitoring system available to monitor stream bed load movement and how it could be used to alert pipeline managers of scour risk in high water.
- B. Instant Voice Alert system, Tony Verna (presented by staff on behalf of Mr. Verna). Ms. Lovelace, DEQ, presented Mr. Verna’s offer to the State of Montana of a software and system to be used by emergency responders for alerting citizens of an emergency. The system allows “on-the fly” messaging to smart phones and conversion of a typewritten message to voice.
- C. Integrity Solutions, Bruce Beighle: Oil Pipeline Risk Management. Mr. Beighle provided information on the types of analyses currently being conducted for risk management of pipelines. The presentation covered detailed analyses of monitoring and site characteristics, including the relative levels of risk and how the analyses are used to drive corrective measures.

#### V. Public Comment

Oppen announced the public comment portion of the meeting. No public comments were offered.

#### VI. Future Meeting Agenda Items and Schedule

Oppen suggested that the next meeting date be in early February when PHMSA expects to have additional information on the mitigations of the “at

risk” sites and to address the need for mitigations before spring runoff. Also, a discussion of regulatory tools available for management of pipeline safety will be on the agenda. The exact date is not yet determined.

## VII. Adjournment

Oppen adjourned the meeting at Noon.